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CONTEMPORARY COMMENT

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NIBBLING OF CONGRESS. BY EXECUTIVE DICTATORSHIP

(By Representative Bruce Alger, Republican, Texas, in the Republican Woman.)

The Constitution, the basis of our limited Federal-state government, outlines a republic within a democracy to safeguard personal liberty and dignity from government regulation and control. Checks and balances are stipulated to assure limited government by convention of the executive, legislative, and judicial from encroachment on each other through balance of power. Any factor affecting this balance must be resisted. The world has witnessed a series of dictatorships, so it is not surprising that many people are aware of the need for containing the power of the executive.

It is in order, therefore, at a time and particularly how to evaluate the performance of the executive branch since this branch took office 4 1/2 months ago.

A series of actions by the executive branch within the administration following President Kennedy's demands, which are nibbling at the legislative powers of Congress: 1) The executive membership was increased to 100; 2) Executive programming and to control and rules of debate and the amendment process; 3) Military speeches must be prepared, must go through the executive; 4) News papers asked to impose self-censorship; 5) Tele vision and radio executives told by FCC Chairman Minner: "There is nothing permanent or sacred about broadcast license. . . . I intend to see that you pay your debt to the public with service." 6) Regulatory agencies, arms of the Congress, not the administration, are the subject of President Kennedy's proposals to reorganize and delegate powers; 7) Congress forced to give up Constitutional duty to scrutinize and approve appropriations annually in the depressed areas bill ("backdoor spending"); 8) Congress told to approve \$500 million for foreign aid to Latin America, the executive absolutely refusing to specify countries and projects to receive aid, although Congress was told last year such information would be forthcoming; 9) Peace Corps set up by executive order not by legislation; 10) House minimum wage replaced by President Kennedy's version in House-Senate conference; 11) Judge- ships, public works, and patronage used to force and keep Congressmen in line to vote as Kennedy decides on all his many legislative proposals; 12) The Kennedy farm bill asks Congress and the farmer to abdicate their rights and powers by transferring part of the legislative power of Congress to an appointed officer in the executive branch of government and there is more to come.

When you realize that already the House has given up Constitutional control of trade and tariffs, that CIA intelligence information goes to the administration, not Congress, and that the Presidency has already been likened to a benevolent dictatorship through transfer of power from Congress to the executive, what does it add up to?

And let's explore the foreign situation: 1) The executive is commander-in-chief of our defense forces representing approximately one-half of all government expenditures; 2) Foreign aid is almost entirely under the control of the executive, and nations, friend or foe, may be subsidized at the will of the executive. In summary, can we hope to maintain our individual freedom and free institutions, indeed our very form of society, if we concentrate the balance of power in one branch of government, dominated by one man?